

CFR 0863

Mrs. Mary Lu Davis Johnson

UMATILLA

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1985

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Mrs. Mary Lu Davis Johnson

Your address: Rt. 4, Box 628, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: Rt. 4, Box 628, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
Address County

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm Honors. Does your farm meet this qualification? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm _____
John A. Davis (grandfather)

Year founder settled on farm 1880 Where did he come from? Iowa
I have a tenant farmer who does the actual farming, however,
Who farms the land today? I reside on the ranch.

Relationship to original owner? Granddaughter

Are any of the original buildings still in use? If so which ones? House, barn, carriage building and equipment shed

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list:
Grain crops, primarily wheat and barley

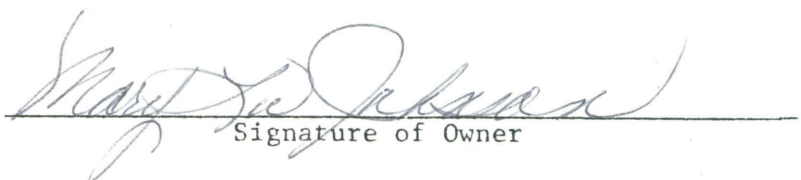
What do you raise on farm today? Wheat and green peas

How many generations live on the farm today (Names)? Two

How many times has the original farm been divided? never

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? Yes

Please return form to:


Signature of Owner

Elizabeth W. Buehler, Field Historian
Oregon Historical Society
1230 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon, 97205

CFR0863

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Mary Lu Davis Johnson

Rt. 4, Box 628, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
(owner's Name and Address)

is applying for Century Farm Honors has been in ^{HER} ~~his~~ family
continuously for one hundred or more years.


(County Recorder/Clerk)

J. Dean Fouquette Sr., County Clerk

6-29-82
Date

Rt. 3, Box 245 Oregon Side
Walla Walla, WA 99362

August 6, 1981

Oregon Historical Society
1230 S. W. Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

Gentlemen:

I am interested in receiving information regarding certification of our farm as a Century Farm.

My grandparents came west by wagon train in the early 1860's and settled in the Walla Walla valley and homesteaded this farm where my husband and I now live.

Our mailing address as shown above perhaps may be somewhat misleading. Our residence is actually Umatilla County, Oregon, but our mail is serviced by the Walla Walla Post Office.

Your assistance in forwarding any forms or information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely


Mary Lu Davis Johnson (Mrs. A. F.)

Thomas J. Oregon & Wife }
John A Davis }

I know all men by their presents; That we Thomas J. Oregon and Mrs. Oregon his wife of Multnomah County, State of Oregon in consideration of Cash Ten and No. 124 to the said John A. Davis of Walla Walla County, Washington Territory do hereby bargain sell, and convey to said John A. Davis his heirs and assigns forever the following described parcel of real estate to wit:

Lots numbered one and two, and fractional lots numbered three and four, and the North half of the East East quarter and the North half of the south west quarter of Section eighteen (18) in Township (16) Six North of Range Thirty six (37) East Containing two hundred and fifty five $\frac{8}{100}$ acres according to the United States survey thereof, the same being lying in Multnomah County, State of Oregon.

Together with all tenements, improvements and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any way appertaining and also all our estate rights title and interest as Law and in equity therein or thereto including dower and claims of dower.

To have and to hold the same to the said John A. Davis his heirs and assigns forever. And we do covenant with the said John A. Davis his heirs assigns and his legal representatives forever for the said real estate free from all incumbrances and that we will and our heirs executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said John A. Davis his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whatsoever.

In Witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals this second day of September A.D. 1881.

Signed Seal and Observed }
in the presence of }
J. Anderson }
Thos. J. Oregon }

Thomas J. Oregon }
Mellen Oregon }

Territory of Washington }
Walla Walla County }

This Certificate took on this day of September A.D. 1881, before me the undersigned a

Commissioner of Deeds for the State of Oregon, residing at Walla Walla in and for the said County and Territory, personally appeared the within named Thomas J. Greig and Melvin Greig his wife, who are known to me to be the identical persons described in, and who executed the within instrument and each acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned. And I further certify that Melvin Greig wife of the said Thomas J. Greig on an examination made by me separate and apart from her said husband and, after I had made known to her the contents of the foregoing instrument, acknowledged to me that she executed the same freely and without fear or compulsion from anyone.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year last above written.

(Seal)

Thos. H. Smith.
Commissioner of Deeds for Oregon

Filed & Recorded
Sept 10th ad 1881. J. H. Keeny Clerk

cellent service during his first term. He was county commissioner from 1910 until 1912 and he has always been loyal to every cause and trust reposed in him. His military record covers three years' service with the National Guard. His fidelity to duty has never been called into question, whether in behalf of the public or in the conduct of his business interests. There is nothing spectacular in his career but his record is that of a busy life, such as contributes to the substantial force of every community.

JOHN A. DAVIS.

At the time of his death John A. Davis was in excellent financial circumstances and was recognized as a prominent farmer of Walla Walla county but during the early days of his residence here he endured many hardships and privations, the conditions being then those of a frontier region. He was born in Owen county, Indiana, November 17, 1839, and was a son of Willoughby and Mary (Orman) Davis, both natives of Tennessee. However, they removed to Indiana at an early day and remained there until 1848, when they went to Wapello county, Iowa, where the father continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his death. There the mother also passed away.

It was in Iowa that John A. Davis received his education and grew to manhood. In 1863, following his marriage, he and his wife made the seemingly never ending journey across the great plains to the Pacific northwest by ox team. They settled on a homestead on Mill creek in Walla Walla county, and their first residence was a log cabin covered with a clapboard roof and with a stick chimney. At that time there were but few settlers in this region and there were many inconveniences to be endured, but the rich soil indicated that in time the country would be well settled and highly developed, and the pioneers labored with confidence in the future. After residing upon his homestead for a time Mr. Davis purchased 550 acres of excellent land on the Oregon state line and there made his home until his death. He made excellent improvements upon the place and followed up-to-date methods in his work with the result that his resources steadily increased.

Mr. Davis was married in Iowa to Miss Carolina Snoddy, a native of Clay county, Indiana, and a daughter of James and Anna (Kendall) Snoddy, the former native of Kentucky and the latter of Tennessee. The father died in Indiana and the mother removed with her children to Iowa and there spent her last years. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis were born fourteen children, namely: John H., deceased; Margaret, the wife of Charles Sweezy; James, deceased; Mary, the wife of William P. Reiser; Frank, a farmer residing in Oregon; Laura, the wife of Fred Kaser; William N.; Rosie, deceased; Estella, the wife of John Garvey; Clara, the wife of H. Miller; Edna, at home; Nellie, deceased; Gertrude, the wife of Raymond Reiser; and Elmer, who is married and living on the home farm.

Mr. Davis was not active in politics, as the management of his farming interests left him little time for outside activities. He passed away in 1907 and was laid to rest in Mountain View cemetery at Walla Walla. He was an honored

pioneer of the county, and his death was deeply regretted by all who had come in close contact with him. His salient qualities were determination, enterprise and industry, and these enabled him to do his part in bringing about the agricultural development of this section. Mrs. Davis gives her personal attention to the leasing of the farm and to the management of all the business affairs of the estate and is recognized as a woman not only of excellent judgment but a typical pioneer mother of whom her children and grandchildren, in fact the entire community, justly feel proud.



JOHN A. DAVIS



MRS. JOHN A. DAVIS

This photograph was taken in approximately 1896-99. The house still stands and is our home. There have been very few structural changes in the house, the bay window has been removed and the chimneys dismantled. The carriage house, with the arched doorways still stands. The large house behind the carriage house was built by my grandparents for a residence while they were building the house, it has been altered and a portion of it is now used as a garage and another portion was used as a smokehouse for many years. This picture shows Mr. & Mrs. John A. Davis, behind the gate, with eleven of their children.

The original photograph was rather dark and did not photocopy well.



PERSONALITY PROFILE

90-Year Home Still Is 'Home'

By CLAUDE GRAY

The last surviving member of the family that founded the Davis-Kaser Co., pioneer Walla Walla furniture store, is Elmer Davis who lives with Mrs. Davis on the Cottonwood Road just across the state line in Oregon. He is the last of the 14 children of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Davis, who came to Walla Walla in 1863 crossing the plains via ox team from Iowa.

The Davises reside in a two-story 14-room residence that was built 90 years ago. Lumber for the house was shipped from Portland to Wallula via steamer then brought overland by John Davis who hauled wheat there one day, returning with lumber the next. The house has been remodeled several times by its present occupants.

Elmer Davis was born in the house, just a few feet from where he was seated while interviewed.

Own Names Used

John Davis and Fred W. Kaser, who had married Laura Davis, daughter of Davis, became engaged in business in a second hand store near today's Palouse and Main intersection. That enterprise became so successful it developed into the furniture business the two men gave their own names: Davis-Kaser. That business was established about 1894. Their expansion resulted in moving to the Odd Fellows building on West Alder which was occupied in the early 1900's. The store remained there until Tom Perry, its owner-manager, moved it to the current location at 51 East Main.

The family enterprise was one of the first furniture stores in Walla Walla and attracted trade from a wide area. With the expansion of the business numerous additional departments were added. After the death of Davis and Kaser the late Jimmy Jones took over management of the store.

Elmer Davis worked at the store while attending business college here and during summers and school vacations during his early youth. He took over management of the family's Cottonwood Creek land holdings when he was 17 years old, succeeding the late W. P. Reser, his brother-in-law, who had managed the family farm in earlier years after the death of John Davis in 1907. Reser had married Lindy Davis, an older sister of Elmer's. Other Davis daughters whose husbands became well known here included Gertrude who married Ray Reser and Clara who married Harlan Miller.

On Mill Creek

Mr. and Mrs. John Davis homesteaded on Mill Creek after their arrival here in 1863 purchasing 500 acres of land that now makes up the bulk of the family holdings on the Cottonwood in 1880. Since then Elmer Davis has extended the farm to its present 700 or more acres. He farmed it 46 years but now leases it to F. J. Stubblefield who raises green peas and wheat there. The Davis' land on Mill Creek is now included in the Ed Lyons family holdings.

Crossing the plains in 1863 with Mr. and Mrs. Davis were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelton, parents of Orley Shelton, 328 S. Division.

Elmer Davis attended the old Tanksley and Cottonwood schools in the vicinity of the family home. The former occupied the highway corner on which Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garland's home stands. Later he attended Green Park Grade



Elmer Davis

School in Walla Walla during a year in which the family resided on Boyer Avenue. One year in town was enough and the family returned to the farm home. Davis attended Pearson's Academy two years then enrolled in Walla Walla Business College from which he graduated.

Two Children

He married Hazel Broxson of Milton-Freewater Dec. 9, 1913. They have two children: Paul Davis, who operates a large garage in Colorado Springs, Colo., and a daughter, Mrs. A. F. "Mary Lou" Johnson, Coos Bay, Ore. There are three grandchildren.

"Farming definitely is a gamble," Davis said. "You're never sure whether you'll have a successful year or not. We've had some good and some bad years, probably more of the former, but I remember selling wheat for 20½ cents a bushel during the depression."

John Davis secured a water right on the Cottonwood during the Japanese-Russian war having a four-inch supply line put in from farther up the stream that supplied water both for domestic and general purposes. Later Elmer Davis had a 160-foot well drilled that has supplied the farm's domestic needs ever since. Water for irrigating the extensive yard of the Davises comes from the Cottonwood that never runs dry that far up in the foothills.

Davis' only hobby is irrigating and mowing his yard's grass and caring for the shrubs that have been planted as well as an extensive garden.

Birthdates of the John A. Davis family follow: Davis Nov. 17, 1839; Mrs. Caroline Snody Davis Sept. 7, 1848; John A. Davis Jr., May 23, 1863; Margie Davis Aug. 31, 1864; James Davis Dec. 13, 1866; Lindy Davis May 30, 1869; Frank Davis May 24, 1871; Laura Davis April 24, 1873; William Davis June 13, 1875; Rosa Davis Sept. 2, 1878; Stella Davis Feb. 25, 1879; Clara Davis July 30, 1881; Edna Davis Feb. 25, 1884; Nellie Davis April 9, 1886; Gertrude Davis Aug. 13, 1891 and Elmer Davis Oct. 19, 1893.

Demos' Convention Faces Loss of Taxis

CHICAGO (AP) — The Democratic National Convention, once confronted by a lack of communications, now faces the possibility of a dearth of taxicabs.

The threat to transportation springs from a contract dispute between the Yellow and Checker Cab companies and Local 777 of the Democratic Union Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the Seafarers International Union.

Yellow has 2,166 and Checker 1,500 of the 4,600 licensed cabs in the city. The 934 others are independents.

A management spokesman said Thursday it had heard rumors of a strike Aug. 6 against the Yellow and Checker firms.

The union contract expired June 30. The drivers have worked without one since then.

"A strike would offer minimal inconvenience to convention delegates," said Jerry Feldman, president of the Checker Cab Co. He said "hundreds of cars" could be loaned by auto-

mobile companies and buses could be rented.

"We have a number of automobiles to pick up delegates and honored guests," said Martin Hauan, director of public affairs for the Democratic party.

The convention is scheduled to open Aug. 26 in the International Amphitheatre, five miles from the downtown business district.

A strike of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers against the Illinois Bell Telephone Co.—now in its 87th day — threatened to move the convention out of Chicago.

But an agreement permitted members of the striking union to install telephone, television and teletype equipment in the amphitheatre on a voluntary basis beginning July 25.

Local 777, which has 5,000 members working as cab drivers and mechanics for the Yellow and Checker companies, has asked for pay increases which the companies call outrageous.

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